



January 6, 2025

Dear parishioners,

As Catholics, we celebrate the importance of both practicing our faith and living our faith, each day in ways like Jesus did. The *Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal* (CMAA) is rich in opportunities for us to follow Christ's example by serving others. This brings me to the theme of our 2025 Appeal, *Open your heart to God's goodness*. When we open our hearts to God's goodness, we open the doors of our Church in service to those in need. Once open, there is no limit to the good we can do!

When you give to the CMAA, you help educate and prepare our seminarians on their journey to becoming our future priests. You bring our young adult Catholics together for faith-building fellowship. You offer programs to our Catholic youth that strengthen their relationship with Jesus, encouraging them to spread His good news. Through your charitable gift, you provide hope and safe housing for the homeless, and much, much more!

Today, I humbly ask you to open your hearts to God's goodness by donating as generously as you can to this year's CMAA. The enclosed brochure features powerful stories that bear witness to the good work you and your fellow parishioners are doing across our Diocese. It is truly inspiring! I encourage you to take a moment to read these stories and view the videos that accompany them to discover the tremendous difference your gift makes.

Thank you for prayerfully considering my request. My hope is that you'll be inspired to make a pledge today. There is no greater way to honor God's goodness than to open our hearts in service to others.

With best wishes, I ask God to bless you always.

As I remain—

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

PS—Please return your pledge card by January 31, 2025, or visit jolietdioceseappeal.org to give online.